

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 091045Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3535

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH ARMY COMMANDER

1. I TALKED ON MAY 7 WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE ANGOLAN MILITARY REGION, GENERAL ERNESTO FERREIRA DE MACEDO, ABOUT THE RECENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

2. MACEDO SAID THAT THE SITUATION IS STILL TENSE AND THAT THE NEXT MONTH PROBABLY WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WILL BE A CHANCE FOR A REASONABLY PEACEFUL TRANSITION. THE KEYS TO RESTORATION OF STABILITY ARE A SUMMIT MEETING OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENT PRESIDENTS, REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF MPLA AND FNLA GARRISONS IN LUANDA, THE REMOVAL OF EXCESS TROOPS FROM THE CITY, AND DISARMING OF CIVILIANS.

3. THE LIBERATION GROUPS HAVE AGREED TO KEEP 500 MEN EACH IN LUANDA FOR DUTY IN THE INTEGRATED FORCE. THE EXCESS WILL
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BE REMOVED TO CAMPS SITUATED SOME MILES OUTSIDE THE CITY.

GARRISONS IN THE CITY ARE TO BE REDUCED TO 15 FOR EACH GROUP, WITH NO MORE THAN 15 OR 20 MEN IN EACH GARRISON. IN ADDITION, A PREVENTIVE FORCE PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON IS TO BE A BATTALION QUARTERED IN THE CITY AND WILL CONSIST OF 150 MEN FROM EACH MOVEMENT. THE FORCE WILL NOT HAVE ANY PORTUGUESE TROOPS AND IS TO BE UTILIZED AS A COMBINED MILITARY POLICE/RAPID REACTION UNIT WHOSE TASK IT WILL BE TO GO TO TROUBLE SPOTS AND PREVENT MINOR CONFLICTS FROM ESCALATING. IN BRIEF, SAID MACEDO, IF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS LIVE UP TO THEIR AGREEMENTS, EACH WILL HAVE ABOUT 900 TO 1,000 MEN IN LUANDA.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE VIOLENCE, MACEDO SAID THAT PUT IN BOXING TERMS MPLA WON ON POINTS. STRANGE THOUGH IT MAY SEEM, HE SAID, THE PORTUGUESE DID NOT LOCATE AND CONFISCATE EVEN ONE OF THE 82 MILIMETER HEAVY MORTARS THAT WERE USED DURING THE TROUBLE. HE GAVE THE CONFIRMED BODY COUNT AS ABOUT 190 AND BELIEVES THE ACTUAL FIGURE IS TWICE THAT. HE SAID THE FIGURE OF 5,000 TO 10,000 REFUGEES IS EXAGGERATED. THE PORTUGUESE ARMY IS FEEDING 1,000 PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS - 600 OF THEM BLACK. HE ESTIMATES THAT ANOTHER 1,000 PEOPLE ARE STAYING WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. HE CONFIRMED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF RAPES, BUT ADDED THAT IN THE TELLING AND RETELLING THE TOTAL HAS SWELLED IN THE POPULAR MIND TO MANY MORE THAN DID IN FACT OCCUR. MACEDO SAID THAT WHITES AND BLACKS WERE RAPED AND BOTH WHITES AND BLACKS WERE GUILTY OF RAPING. LOOTING TOOK PLACE ON A LARGE SCALE. MANY OF THE WHITES NOW IN REFUGES ARE PLEADING TO BE REPATRIATED TO PORTUGAL.

5. THE YUGOSLAV SHIP THAT OFFLOADED SUPPLIES FOR MPLA DURING THE VIOLENCE HAD TO LEAVE PORT WITH MUCH OF HER CARGO STILL ON BOARD AFTER FNLA AND UNITA COMPLAINED AND THE PORTUGUESE NAVY FORCED IT TO LEAVE. TRUCKS AND CLOTHING WERE AMONG THE ITEMS UNLOADED, SAID MACEDO, ALTHOUGH SOME ARMS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF. IF SO, THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A GREAT MANY. THE SHIP HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO GO TO LOBITO TO TAKE ON CARGO FOR THE RETURN TRIP, BUT AS ITS HOLDS WERE STILL QUITE FULL, IT WENT TO POINTE NOIRE TO DROP THE REMAINDER OF ITS LOAD. I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE PURPORTED PLOT TO PROVOKE WHITES ON MAY DAY TO SLAUGHTER BLACKS. MACEDO SAID THAT A PARADE HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR MAY DAY, THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE PLANNING TO CARRY SUCH TOOLS AS HOES, CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOVELS AND CANE-KNIVES, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO LINK THIS WITH A PLOT.

6. MACEDO DOES NOT SEE HOW THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE GOING TO REDUCE THE VIOLENCE UNLESS THEY GET CONTROL OF THEIR TROOPS. THEY STILL FUNCTION MUCH LIKE GUERRILLA BANDS EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE GROWN INTO LARGE ORGANIZATIONS. THE COMMANDER'S PERSONALITY AND HIS REPUTATION AS A FIGHTER

DETERMINE HIS HOLD OVER THE TROOPS. NO ADEQUATE CHAIN OF
COMMAND EXISTS. THE SOLDIERS OFTEN FLATLY REFUSE TO CARRY OUT
ORDERS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE IN BATTLE AND ARE ASKED TO CEASE
FIRING. EVEN IN SMALL THINGS, SUCH AS GUARD DUTY, THEY HAVE
LITTLE CONCEPT OF WHAT TO DO. MEN GO ON DUTY, ARE FORGOTTEN AND
REMAIN AT POST FOR AS LONG AS 24 HOURS. DURING THE FIGHTING
THE BLACK MILITARY LEADERS OFTEN DID NOT SHOW UP AT THE
JOINT COMMAND CENTER, SO THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAD NO ONE WITH
WHOM TO CONFER AND COORDINATE. THE MPLA AND FNLA MILITARY
COMMANDERS GET ALONG WELL ENOUGH WITH EACH OTHER, BUT THEY
ARE NOT ABLE TO CONTROL THEIR ORGANIZATIONS.

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 0551

7. I TURNED NEXT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE TROOPS.
MACEDO WOULD NOT ADMIT THAT STANDING ORDERS HAD BEEN CHANGED
TO PERMIT THEM TO FIRE AT WILL. HE AGREED THAT THEIR
ORDERS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY TO FIRE ONLY AFTER EXTREME
PROVOCATION; THE ORDERS DIDN'T CHANGE, HE SAID, THE SITUATION
DID. BANDS OF MARAUDERS AND LOOTERS WERE THE NEW ELEMENT

AND THE TROOPS OPENED FIRE ON THEM. THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS OPERATED AS PART OF THE INTEGRATED FORCE DURING THE VIOLENCE. A FEW PURELY PORTUGUESE PATROLS MAY HAVE GONE OUT, BUT MACEDO SAID HE TRIES TO AVOID THIS WHENEVER POSSIBLE SO THAT THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WILL NOT BE TAGGED WITH A REPUTATION OF RACISM AND BRUTALITY.

8. I SAID HE PROBABLY KNEW I HAD ORDERED DEPENDENTS OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE RESPONDED THAT THE SITUATION IS BAD AND THAT THE ATTACKS ON WHITES CONSTITUTED AN EXTREMELY DISTURBING ELEMENT. WE SHOULD ALL KNOW IN ABOUT A MONTH, HE SAID, WHAT
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THE PROSPECTS ARE FOR THE RESTORATION OF ORDER.

9. IN APRIL THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ALLOTTED 6000,000 CONTOS (ABOUT 24\$000,000 DOLLARS) TO THE INTEGRATED FORCES. MACEDO SAID THAT AS TROOPS COME INTO THE INTEGRATED FORCES THEY WILL BE GIVEN A G-3 RIFLE, AND THEIR SALARY, FOOD AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE PAID FROM THE NEW ALLOCATION. BY NOW EACH GROUP SHOULD HAVE SECONDED 1,500 TROOPS TO THE INTEGRATED FORCES BUT NONE HAS SENT MORE THAN 500. THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE STILL NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR AND A FINANCE OFFICER WAS HERE RECENTLY FROM LISBON TO WORK OUT DETAILS.
KILLORAN

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